

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A refrigeration apparatus, comprising:
a heat source side heat exchanger;
a utilization side heat exchanger;
a four-way switching valve being configured to switch a direction of a refrigerant flow when changing between a cooling operation and a heating operation;
a liquid side refrigerant circuit connecting the heat source side heat exchanger and the utilization side heat exchanger, the liquid refrigerant circuit having a receiver configured to accumulate refrigerant;
a heat source side expansion valve being connected to the receiver of the liquid side refrigerant circuit to expand refrigerant received from the receiver;
a bridge circuit having a first check valve, a second check valve, a third check valve, and a fourth check valve,
the first check valve permitting only distribution of the refrigerant from the heat source side heat exchanger to the receiver heat source side expansion valve,
the second check valve permitting only distribution of the refrigerant from the utilization side heat exchanger to the receiver heat source side expansion valve,
the third check valve permitting only distribution of the refrigerant from the heat source side expansion valve to the utilization side heat exchanger without passing through the receiver,
the fourth check valve permitting only distribution of the refrigerant from the heat source side expansion valve to the heat source side heat exchanger without passing through the receiver; and
a gas separation apparatus being configured to connect to the receiver between the heat source side heat exchanger and the utilization side heat exchanger,

the gas separation apparatus including includes a separation membrane being connected to the liquid side refrigerant circuit, ~~the gas separation apparatus being connected between an area where the first check valve and the second check valve are disposed and the expansion valve, and with~~ the separation membrane being configured to separate a noncondensable gas remaining inside the liquid side refrigerant circuit from the refrigerant and ~~the gas separation apparatus being configured to discharge the noncondensable gas out of~~ the liquid side refrigerant circuit ~~a noncondensable gas remaining inside a refrigerant connecting pipe~~ by operating a compressor and circulating the refrigerant inside the liquid side refrigerant circuit.

7. (Currently Amended) The refrigeration apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein

~~the liquid side refrigerant circuit includes a receiver is configured to receive~~ accumulate the refrigerant flowing ~~from~~ between the area where the first check valve or and the second check valve at an upper end of the receiver, and the refrigerant flowing into the receiver includes liquid refrigerant and gas refrigerant containing the noncondensable gas such that the liquid refrigerant separates below the gas refrigerant containing the noncondensable gas in the receiver, are disposed and the expansion valve, and

the liquid side refrigerant circuit includes a pipe with an end disposed to receive the liquid refrigerant within the receiver to supply the liquid refrigerant from the receiver to the heat source side expansion valve, and

the gas separation apparatus is connected to the upper end of the receiver, and is configured to separate the noncondensable gas contained in a gas phase of the gas refrigerant that is accumulated in an upper part of the receiver above the liquid refrigerant.

8. (Currently Amended) The refrigeration apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein

the gas separation apparatus further includes a discharge valve configured to release the noncondensable gas into the atmosphere after separation from the gas refrigerant.

9.-13. (Cancelled)